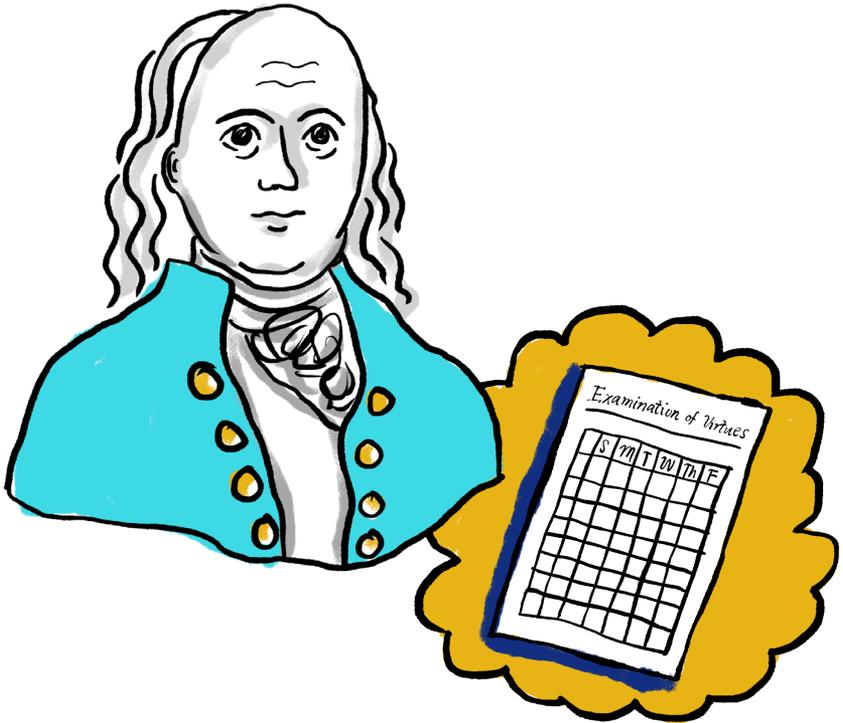


Name:

Date:



Franklin's Fantastic Civic Virtues

Lexile: ~730

Word Count: ~450

Sample Vocabulary:

unlikable, quill, abbreviation, helper, kindness, kind, honesty, feather, civic, invention, improve, character, virtue

Adapted From:

<https://billofrightsinstitute.org/activities/a-project-of-moral-perfection-benjamin-franklins-list-of-virtues-and-purposehandout-a-narrative>

Reading Skills in this Mini-book

This mini-book includes specific sounds, practice words, and phonemic awareness skills, listed below and highlighted in the Reading Skills boxes throughout the story.



Sounds

/oo/ as in hook and moon

/ee/ as in city

- reading
- practice
- words

Practice Words

civic virtue, improve,
character

Phonemic Awareness

3 and 4 syllable words

Philadelphia

Character





The arrow points to Boston, where Benjamin Franklin was born.

Where do you live?

Show it on the map.

CHAPTER 1

Who was Benjamin Franklin?

Benjamin Franklin was born in Boston in 1706. He grew up in a place where people cared a lot about doing what was right, having virtue, and good character.

History Skill

How long ago was 1706?

$$\begin{array}{r} 20 _ _ \\ - 1706 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

3 _ _ years ago!

Virtue

Virtue is a good quality—like kindness, honesty, or courage. It's something you choose to do to be a better person.

Character

Character is when you do good things again and again—until it becomes part of who you are.

Sketch it!

Civic Virtue



Character



When he was young, Benjamin Franklin liked to argue with others about what they believed. He was worried that this made him unlikeable.

He set out to practice civic virtues to improve himself. He wanted to have good character.

- ☑ reading
- ☑ practice
- ☑ words

Reading Skill

Practice Words

Practice reading the words civic virtue, improve and character. You will read them many times in this story!

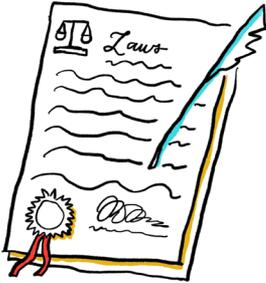
Examination of Virtues

Eat not to dullness;
Drink not to elevation.

	Sun.	M.	T.	W.	Th.	F.	S.
Tem.							
Sil.							
Ord.							
Res.							
Fru.							
Ind.							
Sinc.							
Jus.							
Mod.							
Clea.							
Tran.							
Chas.							
Hum.							

This is how Benjamin Franklin recorded the virtues he was working on.

There are 13 virtues on the side, and the days of the week on the top.



Pens weren't invented yet, so Benjamin Franklin would have written his list with a quill pen made from a feather!

Franklin wanted to be a better person, so he made a list of civic virtues. These were things like being quiet, keeping things in order, working hard, and being honest. Each week he would work on one virtue from his list.

History Skill

Then and Now

Benjamin Franklin wrote with a

I write with a

Courage



The ability to take constructive action in the face of fear or danger. To stand firm as a person of character and do what is right, especially when it is unpopular or puts one at risk.



Justice

Upholding of what is fair and right. Respecting the rights and dignity of all.



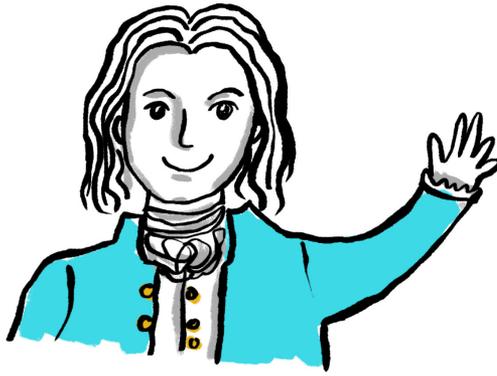
Respect

Regard for and defending the equal rights and inherent dignity of all human beings, including oneself.



Responsibility

Acting on good judgment about what is right or wrong even when it is not popular. Individuals must take care of themselves, their families, and their fellow citizens/others in civil society and a republic and be vigilant to preserve their own liberty and the liberty of others.



This is young Benjamin Franklin.



He went through the list of civic virtues four times every year. He thought it was better to improve slowly than to try to fix all his problems at once.

He practiced 13 civic virtues like respect, responsibility, justice, and courage though he called them other things.



Benjamin Franklin writing with a quill at his desk.

CHAPTER 2

How did Benjamin Franklin improve himself?

Franklin learned about how to be good from books and wise people. He thought that having good character would make him happy.

He learned to be more patient and kind when he talked to other people instead of arguing. He practiced civic virtues every day.



Reading Skills

Sounds

The letters “oo” can have two sounds!

long /oo/ like moon

short /oo/ like hook

Which sound does the word good make?



This is a map of the 13 colonies. This is what the country looked like during Benjamin Franklin's time.

It is marked with Boston, where Benjamin Franklin grew up. It is also marked with Philadelphia, where he lived as an adult.

A handwritten signature of Benjamin Franklin in cursive script, written in black ink.

This is Benjamin Franklin's signature. It is how he signed his name.

He also thought that having civic virtue was important for the new American colonies.

He knew Americans would need to have good character to govern themselves.

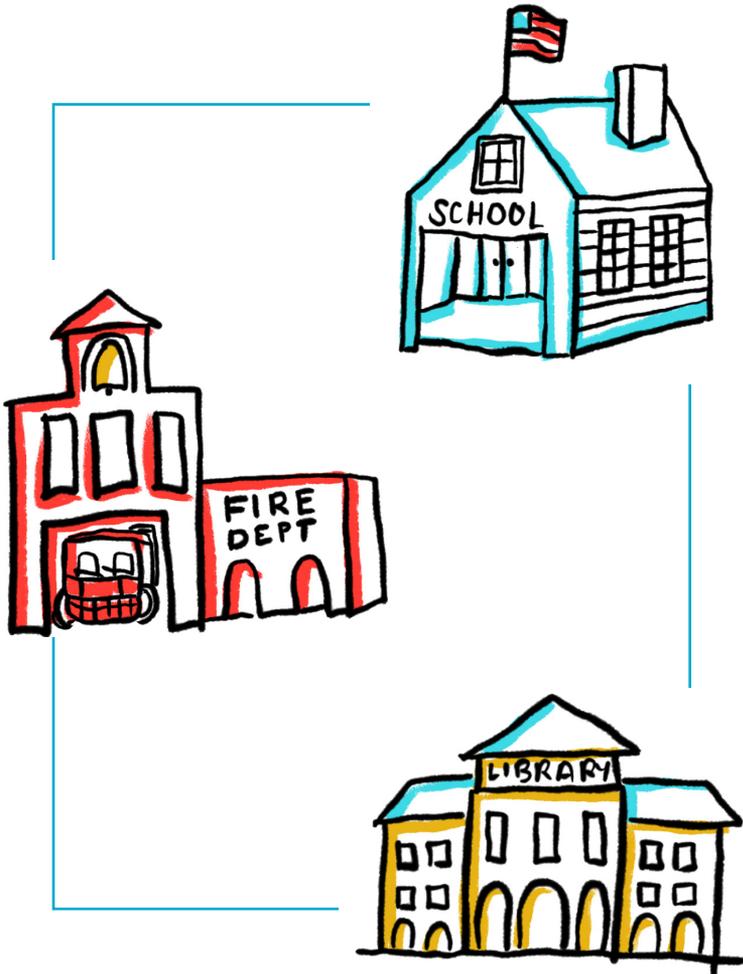


Reading Skills

Phonemic Awareness

How many syllables in “character”?

/care/ /lick/ /ter/



Benjamin Franklin helped his community by helping build schools, fire departments, and libraries.

CHAPTER 3

How did Benjamin Franklin improve his community and country?

When Franklin was older, he moved to Philadelphia. He wanted to help his community too.

He helped start a library where people could read books. He also helped start a fire department and schools.

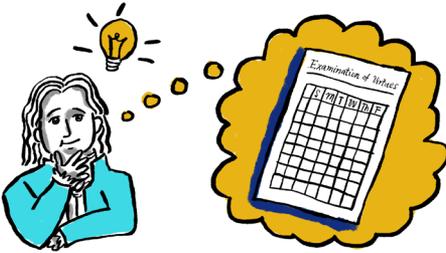


Reading Skills

Phonemic Awareness

How many syllables in “Philadelphia”?

/fill/ /a/ /del/ /fi/ /a/



Benjamin Franklin



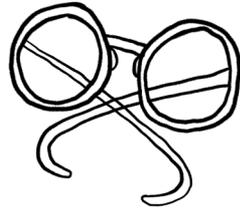
Philadelphia



The American Colonies

Benjamin Franklin was a leader and helper in his city and country. But it all started with focusing on his own civic virtues.

Later, he worked to help build the new country. He worked with other important people to make new laws.



He made many inventions to help people, like glasses. He shared his designs for free to help people across the country. Franklin's plan to be a better person helped him make his community and country better too!



Reading Skills

Sounds

The letter “y” at the end of a word can sound like /i/ in cry or /ee/ in country.

Which sound is used in the word community?

Scan the code below for more
Elementary Resources!

<https://bit.ly/brijr>

